

LYON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Staff Travel Report
to
School Board of Trustees**

Your recent request to travel has been approved. Within two weeks of the date of the conference, the following report is due in the office of the Deputy Superintendent.

Please Download & TYPE the following information.

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|-------------------------|---|------------------|------------------------|
| Staff Member: | Mara Spencer | School: | DO |
| Conference: | Assoc. for Career & Technical Education | Staff Assignment | Transition Coordinator |
| Do not use acronyms | | | |
| Location of Conference: | Bellevue, WA | Dates Attended: | 4/2/2025-4/4/2025 |

General Overview: Do not use acronyms

This national conference brings together educators and industry partners from across the nation to meet and share ideas, share strategies that have worked in their respective fields, and stay current with the latest trends in all technical areas. I was able to attend many sessions that emphasized access for all students with special needs and how to best serve them in technical education.


How will this impact student learning in a positive way?

From the sessions I attended, I was introduced to some creative ideas on how to create more collaboration and accessibility for our students with disabilities, including some very simple ways students with disabilities can bring something meaningful to their school environment, while working with general education students, enjoy a more collaborative and connected tie into student life. Some of the great ideas presented included ideas for student based enterprises, which included a snowboard wax shop, café/coffee bar, and selling baked potatoes once a week during school lunches. Selling baked potatoes is a simple and easily implementable idea, which could be implemented at each high school site with little preparation and some training. Another idea was creating a "Peer STEM" class, in which general education students who are interested in STEM careers would plan and teach their same-aged peers with special needs a lesson related to STEM. Finally, creating a peer "Buddy Class" where general education students are paired with a special education student in a wide variety of classes, including PE, music, art, food, working in the cafeteria or attending field trips. This would create an atmosphere of inclusiveness and build positive peer interactions. One of the final ideas I brainstormed while there was bringing the art teachers and their students into the creative process of a student based enterprise already being implemented. This would be to have art students create simple, easily replicated greeting card designs that our students with special needs could create, duplicate and sell. The computer science students would be brought into the selling portion of the business by helping build an online website with the designs pictured and develop a way for the public to order specific greeting cards. Finally, business management students could participate by creating marketing applicable to the business. This would bring together multiple technical areas at each high school and further develop a collaborative educational environment. This framework could be replicated for a wide variety of other student based enterprises.

*How will I implement what I learned and how will I share
this information with my colleagues?*

To implement these ideas I will meet with the respective art, computer, business/marketing, and special education teachers at the high schools to first stir up interest and then collaborate on how to best implement and maintain a viable program moving forward. We would need to consider how many students would need to be involved and how to move forward with a plan.


Other Comments:



Site Principal/Supervisor Approval

4/14/2025

Date



Deputy Superintendent Approval

4/15/25

Date